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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/544,613	04/06/2000	Jean-Claude Jammet	ATOCH-172	9063
23599	7590	08/07/2002		
MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. 2200 CLARENDON BLVD. SUITE 1400 ARLINGTON, VA 22201			EXAMINER RHEE, JANE J	
			ART UNIT 1772	PAPER NUMBER 10
			DATE MAILED: 08/07/2002	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/544,613	JAMMET ET AL.	
	Examiner Jane J Rhee	Art Unit 1772	
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>			
<b>Period for Reply</b>			
<b>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).</li> <li>- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</li> </ul>			
<b>Status</b>			
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.			
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is <b>FINAL</b> .      2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.			
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.			
<b>Disposition of Claims</b>			
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>10-22</u> is/are pending in the application.			
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.			
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.			
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>10-22</u> is/are rejected.			
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.			
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.			
<b>Application Papers</b>			
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.			
10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner.			
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).			
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner.			
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.			
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.			
<b>Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120</b>			
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).			
a) <input type="checkbox"/> All    b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some *    c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of:			
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.			
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.			
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).			
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.			
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).			
a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.			
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.			
<b>Attachment(s)</b>			
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .	
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ .		6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .	

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 10-15, 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Nagano et al. (0035392).

Nagano et al. discloses a polymer (A) comprising a blend of polyethylene (page 4 lines 5-12) with a density of 0.88 to 0.98g/cm<sup>3</sup> (page 4 line 11-12) being grafted with an unsaturated carboxylic acid in which the content is between 0.01 to 10% (page 4 line 22-24). Nagano et al. discloses a polyethylene (B) with a density of 0.86 to 0.96g/cm<sup>3</sup> (page 4 line 18). Nagano et al. discloses that the comonomer of A1 is the same as that of B, which is the polyethylene, described above (page 4 lines 5-19). Nagano et al. discloses that the binder comprises an ethylene content of not less than 80 mole% (page 4 line 20-21) and has an  $MFI_2/[\eta]^{8.77}$  ratio greater than 15 in absolute value (page 4 line 10-11). Nagano et al. discloses the  $MFI_{10}/MFI_2$  ratio being between 5 to 18 (page 4 line 27). Nagano et al. discloses a multilayer structure comprising a layer comprising the binder of described above directly attached to the latter a layer of nitrogen-containing or oxygen-containing polar resin or a metal layer (page 12 lines 20-24). Nagano et al. discloses a rigid hollow body (page 17 line 21). Nagano et al. discloses a

gasoline tank (page 16 line 13). Nagano et al. discloses that the layer of nitrogen containing or oxygen containing polar resin is a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer (page 12 lines 25-34). Since Nagano et al. discloses the same layers desired by the applicant with the same density and MFI ratio it is inherent that the MFI is between 0.1 and 3g/10min.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano et al. in view of Adur et al. (4460745).

Nagano et al. discloses a multilayer structure comprising the binder described above with a layer of nitrogen-containing or oxygen-containing polar resin directly attached (page 12 lines 20-24). Nagano et al. discloses that the structure comprises an HDPE layer as the first layer, then a polar resin layer as the second layer and a HDPE layer (page 14 line 9-10). Nagano et al. discloses that the polar resins can be polyamide resins, saponified copolymer of ethylene and vinyl acetate, and polyesters (page 12 lines 25-27). Nagano et al. fail to disclose a layer of EVOH as the polar resin layer. Adur et al. teaches that the polar substrates which can be used with adhesive blends are nylons and other polyamides, ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymers, EVA (col. 2

line22), polyesters, polyvinyl alcohol, polyurethanes, polyureas, and other carbonyl-containing polymers, metal, glass, paper, wood and the like (col. 1 lines 56-62). Adur et al. teaches that it is well known in the art to use composites such as EVOH to adhesive blends because the adhesive blends provides excellent adhesive strength to polar resin layers like EVOH (col. 1 lines 56-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided Nagano et al. with a layer of EVOH as the polar resin layer blends because the adhesive blends provides excellent adhesive strength to polar resin layers like EVOH (col. 1 lines 56-59) as taught by Adur et al.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane J Rhee whose telephone number is 703-605-4959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-5408 for regular communications and 703-301-9999 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 1772

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

*Jane Rhee*

Jane Rhee  
July 30, 2002

*Harold Pyon*  
HAROLD PYON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
*1772*

*8/5/02*